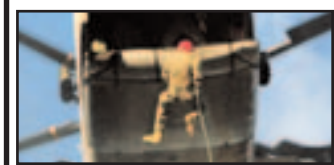


M Hawaii MARINE

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Training Day
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Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Marines from Headquarters Battalion prepare to stop at the base Chapel during a 4.5-mile hike around the base to deliver non-perishable food for the Headquarters Battalion Thanksgiving canned food drive.



Sgt. Macario P. Mora Jr.

Gunnery Sgt. John Duncan, platoon sergeant, Combat Assault Company, directs an Assault Amphibian Vehicle as it demolishes a base home, July 6.



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Marines from 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment arrived home throughout October and were welcomed by smiling faces at Hangar 105.

SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

Hawaii Marine rings in '08 with remembrance of '07

Happy New Year! We here at the Hawaii Marine have decided to begin 2008 by remembering the highlights of 2007 with a special "Year In Review" issue. Throughout these pages we'll take another look at the top stories and photos of last year.

Deployments were plentiful last year as all aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii did their part to support the Global War on Terror. Units here kept a constant cycle of Marines transitioning in and out of Iraq, six to seven months at a time.

When not abroad helping to bring stability and security to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, Marines and Sailors stayed busy aboard Kaneohe Bay volunteering their time to projects with local Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps units and providing aid to the local community with food drives and renovation projects.

Hard work didn't go unnoticed in 2007. In June the first Enterprise AIRSpeed Site of the Year 2007 "Battle A" award was given to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24. In May the Ma-

rine Corps Aviation Association honored Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 with the Joe Foss Award for 1st Marine Aircraft Wing "HMH of the Year."

Not to be outdone, HMH-363 assisted state and federal fire-fighting agencies in August to help contain a fire near Schofield Barracks and the North Shore.

Not only did units aboard base assist in preventing destruction on the island, but also did a little destruction of their own. Marines assigned to Combat Assault Com-

pany, 3rd Marines showed there is more than one way to demolish a house as they drove an Assault Amphibian Vehicle through one unlucky abode on base housing.

With all of this plus more top news headlines, captivating training images, another look at the hotspots on island in the Lifestyles section, and a review of the plays that made base sports teams champions in the Sports section, 2007 has a lot to be remembered by. So grab a chair, peruse these pages and reminisce one last time before diving head first into 2008.



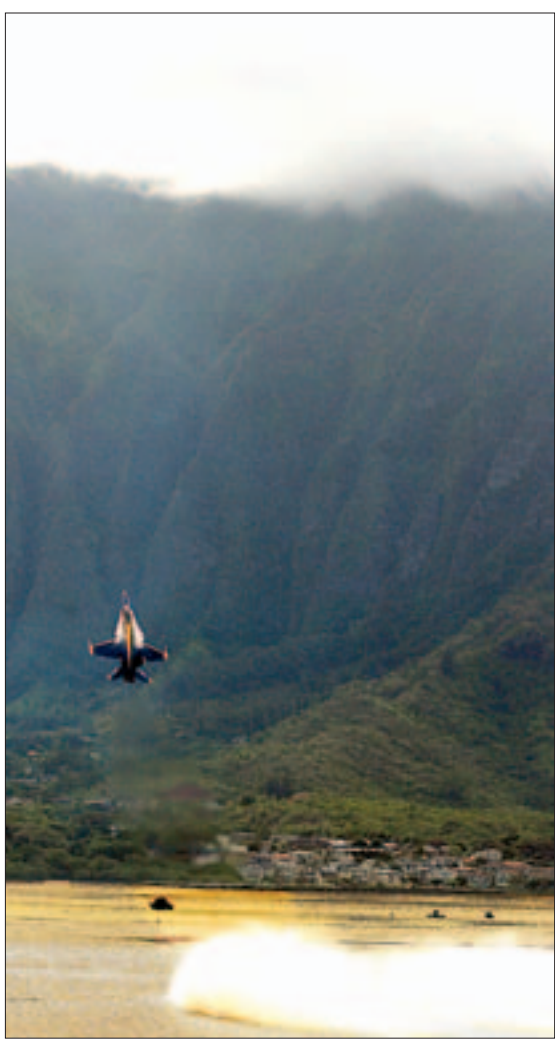
Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Lance Cpl. Erwin Gregorio, disbursing clerk, leads the way for his team in the humvee pull, Jan. 26, during the Leatherneck competition here.



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

By the end of a memorial run, more than 90 dog tags, each with information of a fallen 3rd Marine Regiment member, were affixed to the guidon Marines were running with.



Sgt. Macario P. Mora Jr.

A Blue Angel F/A-18 Hornet heads skyward Sept. 12 at the 'Blues on the Bay' air show. More than 150,000 people attended the three-day event.



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

A Marine from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment places the boots and dog tags of a fallen brother during a memorial ceremony April 19 honoring 22 Marines and one Sailor who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom during their deployment.



Cpl. Rick Nelson

A Marine assigned to 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, shakes the hand of an Iraqi child during a security patrol in Haditha, Iraq. Marines say the children are friendly in the area and this is a common occurrence.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Lance Cpl. Jared Zarbo, fire team leader, Operations Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, attempts to pull a wounded Marine to safety after a simulated IED goes off during a training exercise at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, March 27.

Top Headlines

of 2007

Marines, Sailors, families say goodbye to 23 fallen ‘heroes’

It was an emotional event as mothers, fathers, wives, friends and fellow Marines listened to the names of 22 Marines and one Sailor, who were killed while conducting combat operations in al Anbar province Iraq, during a memorial ceremony at the base flight line, April 19 ... **See A6**

HMH-463 wins Joe Foss Award, nominated for best in Marine Corps

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 received the Joe Foss Award for “HMH of the Year” from the Marine Corps Aviation Association, May 19, in Okinawa, Japan, for being the best in 1st Marine Aircraft Wing ... **See A7**

2 Iraqi Police, 3 insurgents killed in raid in western al Anbar

In an Iraqi Police led raid on a small cluster of houses outside the village of Zariah, three insurgents were killed and five were detained, Jan. 23 ... **See A8**

Take a Hike: HQBN steps it off for Holiday Food Drive

Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stepped off on a 4.5-mile hike here, Nov. 8, en route to the base chapel to help assist in the chapel's annual holiday food drive ... **See A8**

Winds of Change: ‘07 sees strongest gusts in years

The base experienced January gusts with an unusual amount of force blowing in from the southwest and accelerating down the slopes of the Koolau mountain range ... **See B2**

Bayfest ‘07

A little rain and a lot of traffic couldn’t stop thousands of people from turning out to the 18th annual BayFest. The three-day event featured carnival rides, concerts by headlining music artists and much more ... **See B5**

United Service Organizations offered appreciation for service members, families

The United Service Organizations offered service members and their families a free trip to the Honolulu Zoo last year as part of a military appreciation day. Last year was the second year the USO offered a free day at the zoo for military family members ... **See B4**

Go Pro: Base volunteers assist NFL Stars

Perhaps one of the loudest roars that could be heard erupting from Aloha Stadium Feb. 10 was when volunteers from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, alongside volunteers from the other military services were thanked by the National Football League for their support during this year’s Pro Bowl ... **See C2**

Racers play dirty

Oahu's dirtiest footrace took participants for a romp in the swamp while traversing obstacles along the way held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Feb. 24 ... **See C3**

Everyone wants to 'Splash and Dash'

Runners from around the island competed in Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37's 4th annual Splash and Dash Biathlon, Oct. 13, at Hangar 103 here ... **See C4**

3/3 Vets take championship

Spirits were high and adrenaline was pumping as the VP-9 Eagles and the 3/3 Vets warmed up for the Intramural Baseball Championship series at Riseley Field here May 1 ... **See C7**

Hawaii

MARINE

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RECKLESS DRIVING

3rd Marines aid with construction, demo

Cpl. Chadwick deBree

Combat Correspondent

The buildings were abandoned, resembling a ghost town. The sound of tracked wheels rose from the air. Smack. Into the house went an Assault Amphibian Vehicle; but this was no ghost town, this was base housing.

Marines assigned to Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment demolished a house, July 6, in base housing here.

This was a chance for the Marines to conduct training and actually bring down a house with the AAV, said Sandy Howard, relocation residence manager, Forest City Residential Management, Inc.

“Prior to [1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment] and [1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment] deploying, we let them use this area as a combat town,” Howard said. “This is the same concept, just a different type of training.”

The event benefited both the Marines and Forest City as the Marines were able to train while helping to bring down old houses to make way for new ones.

As a crowd and news crews gathered to witness the destruction, the vehicle made its way around the building to prepare to bring the house down.

The AAV revved its engine and headed toward the house. The awning snapped off the porch like a twig and the brick wall began to crumble, but the wall proved to be a match for the vehicle.

“We had to back up and drive into it a couple of times,” said Sgt. Shane Eaton, combat engineer, CAC, 3rd Marine Regiment. “There were no worries going through the house as far as safety was concerned. They already told us that the electricity was turned off and water was turned off, so we didn’t worry about a stray wire swinging up and electrocuting us.”

The event came together when Howard sent an e-mail to Col. Duffy White, commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Owen Lovejoy,



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

An Assault Amphibian Vehicle from Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, plows through a house in Forest City Housing during a demolition July 6.

then-executive officer, of 3rd Marine Regiment.

“I retired from the Marine Corps and know how difficult it is to get these types of opportunities,” said Howard, a retired first sergeant. “Any time when I can help the Marines out with training I do it, that’s what a partnership is all about. It’s a pleasure to still be working with Marines.”

With the opportunity to drive an AAV through a house, the Marines were excited to be afforded the opportunity to conduct this type pf training.

“This was one of the best experiences in my career,” Eaton said. “This is the type of stuff you look forward to in the Corps, especially when you don’t do this on a daily basis like me. I would love to do this again. In fact, I wish we could do every house. This was great way to end my time in Hawaii before I head to Camp Pendleton. It was a great experience.”

Military fights fire alongside state, federal agencies

HMH-363 assists with combined effort to put out fire near Schofield

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

Helicopters based here assisted fire-fighting agencies from state and federal agencies Aug. 14 and 15 after a fire erupted around Schofield Barracks on Northern Oahu.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 used their CH-53D “Sea Stallion” helicopters with attached water buckets to support other federal units in getting the fire under control on federal grounds.

“We launched aircraft on both [Aug. 14 and 15] to help fight the fire,” said Capt. Joe Elseroad, pilot, HMH-363. “The fire was located south of Wailua, in and around Schofield.”

“We used a fire bucket that can hold up to 435 gallons of water,” Elseroad said. “We picked up water from the lake, and as we passed over the fire, we poured the water.”

They completed numerous drops during

the 22.9 hours their helicopters flew over the fires.

“We had one helicopter [Aug. 14] that made over 70 drops in the 8.4 hours it flew, and 2 helicopters [Aug. 15] that made over 120 drops in their 14.5 hour total,” Elseroad said.

While the combined effort of both HMH-363, and Army fire fighters handled the fire on federal grounds, local and state fire fighters handled the fire outside of federal grounds.

“It was a combined effort by the Honolulu Fire Department, state and federal assets to get the fire under control,” Elseroad said.

After the blaze subsided, HMH-363 stood by to help out. Fortunately, the fire was out for good and the Marines were able to eventually stand down.

“We will go out there again [if needed],” Elseroad said.



Kenny Hedlund

Major Paul Anslow, operations officer, MAG-24, flies over the firing range at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. In the CH-53D Sea Stallion, Anslow dumps ocean water during aerial firefighting training run by representatives from Helitack and Airborne Firefighting at Camp Pendleton.

New mobile MOUT system allows better training

Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Combat Correspondent

Marines, Sailors and state and federal agencies in Hawaii now have better, more realistic urban training thanks to a new mobile training system at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

The area is for Military Operations in Urban Terrain, and includes modular, pre-fabricated, non-permanent rooms that connect to make temporary buildings for training purposes.

“The modules are shipping containers that have been converted into sections of buildings,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Lathrop, operations officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

There are four sites, each with a number of MOUT modules to represent four locations

in a patrol path. There are mock areas, such as a marketplace with a headquarters, along with a mosque and two small towns in Iraq or Afghanistan.

“These structures will be extremely helpful in training our Marines and Sailors in

urban combat because it will represent a multi-dimensional threat of several buildings where an enemy could hide instead of just one building,” Lathrop said.

The moveable structures haveno plumbing, electricity, or

sewage lines, and are shorter than the tree line, sitting on pre-existing concrete and asphalt surfaces.

The state government will also be able to send its agencies to the MOUT facility to train.

“Not only is the site going to be used by our Marines and Sailors, but also by the Hawaii national guard, police departments, and other agencies that are defending the islands,” Lathrop said.

The local community is not affected by the new system because it operates during normal training hours.

“There will be no increase in the levels of training going on here,” Lathrop said. “There will be no additional training and there should be no impact toward the local community.”



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

The new modular Military Operations in Urban Terrain system was completed in September. These non-permanent structures offer Marines, Sailors and state and federal agencies the opportunity to better train.

Weekend weather outlook

Today

Day — Isolated showers before noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. Breezy, with a east wind between 18 and 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Night — Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. East wind between 16 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

High — 81

Low — 70

Saturday

Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. Breezy, with a east wind between 18 and 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Night — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East wind between 11 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

High — 81

Low — 67

Sunday

Day — Isolated showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. East wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. West wind around 7 mph.

High — 82

Low — 70



TRAINING DAY

King Kong ain't got nothin' on these Devil Dogs

In 2007, the Leathernecks of Marine Corps Base Hawaii trained. They trained a lot. Then when they were finished, they trained some more. They trained on base, off base, on island, on the mainland, and everywhere in between.

They trained with planes, jets, helicopters, tanks, Humvees, and anything else with two wheels, four wheels or no wheels. If it could float in the water or drive on the land, or even both, you better believe they trained with it.

Lethal weapons, non-lethal weapons and even hand-to-hand (MCNinjas anyone?). During lane training infantrymen developed close quarters combat skills while newly recruited sharpshooters went the distance in Scout Sniper class.

Young men encountered the grim face (or the closest thing to it) of mortality for the first time when they were greeted by screaming role players donned in gory make-up and drenched in fake blood during first-responder training.

Marines in new leadership positions learned the value of indirect fire and combined arms while huffing and puffing their way through the challenge of a platoon-sized attack exercise.

Daytime, nighttime, any time is a good time for training. But it isn't just about how much they trained. It's about how they trained. They trained with voracity, with a purpose. We're talking ears open, eyeballs click. They trained without complaints or taking shortcuts. They trained with everything they had. They trained as if it were the last chance they would get to train before the real thing, and for a lot of them, it was.

Above all things, they trained alongside one another. They shared accomplishments and defeats. Everything they did, they did together and they're better for it, because when the training stops, when the dummy rounds and mock explosions and fake blood become real bangs and booms and a screaming comrade — they'll face it together.

Marines assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hike toward the staging point of their assault during a platoon live-fire attack exercise during the Mojave Viper Exercise Nov. 7.

Cpl. Mark Fayloga



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Private First Class David Gavin runs to assist wounded Marines during an IED procedures exercise and becomes a casualty himself as a secondary IED explodes on the side of the road.



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Marines acting as an opposing force clash with the base security forces element in an attempt to break through their line June 6, during the non-lethal weapons course at Landing Zone 216 here.



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Marines in the Helicopter Rope Suspension Techniques Course had to rappell 70 feet from a helicopter in order to become HRST instructors themselves.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Lance Cpl. Jared Zarbo takes point man for 3rd Squad, Operational Platoon, Headquarters Company, 3/3, during a room clearing exercise, March 28.



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Marines in the scout sniper basic course are trained to blend into their surroundings. They wear ghillie suits made from strips of burlap. They then interweave twigs from their surroundings into the strips of burlap to help them camouflage into their surroundings.



Cpl. Mark Fayloga

A Marine assigned to Weapons Platoon, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rushes to the aid of a cherrypicker (mock-casualty) during a First Responder Exercise at Range 215 on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. Nov. 20.



Cpl. Mark Fayloga

Corporals Daniel P. Sebber (left) and Walter A. Marinero, vehicle commander and gunner (respectively), JUMP Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 2/3, track down an automated insurgent during an Urban Assault Course lane training exercise Nov. 5 at Range 111 aboard MCAGCC as part of the Mojave Viper Exercise.

REMEMBRANCE RUN

3rd Marines honor fallen with run



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

With a guidon full of dog tags, Marines from 3rd Marine Regiment ran throughout the night in honor of their fallen brothers.

From 8 a.m., Nov. 8, to 8 a.m., Nov. 9, Marines ran in 20-minute shifts from 3rd Marine Regiment to the Pacific War Memorial and back, each time running in memory of a Marine killed in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

“It’s important to do this because you’ll see memorial services for fallen Marines when a battalion gets back from Iraq,” said Cpl. Jacob Kareus, Regimental Schools. “It’s fresh in their minds then. This is months, in some cases years later. Some of these Marines were killed in 2005. It’s good to remember our fallen brothers, especially on the Marine Corps birthday.”

Marines from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Battalion, as well as Marines from the Wounded Warriors Company, Regimental Schools, and even former Marines, volunteered to take place in the 24-hour run, running individually or in fire teams. Also, Marines picked which fallen warrior they wanted to run for, making the event more personal and significant for the individual running.

“I think it was a great way to pay tribute to the Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Sgt. Jeff McDonald, Regimental Schools. “It’s an honor to be part of this. I’ve been in combat twice, but these guys did their jobs to the fullest and gave every-

thing.”

McDonald, Kareus and more than 100 other Marines ran for the 92 3rd Marine Regiment Marines killed in OIF and OEF. Before runners left the regiment to begin their stick of the run, a biography for the fallen Marine was read, runners offered up personal memories about them, and their dog tag was fixed to the guidon.

The run started off with two Marines from the Wounded Warriors Co., running for 1st Lt. Joshua Booth, Echo Company, 2/3. It ended when Maj. Matthew Tracy, officer-in-charge, Regimental Schools and former Echo Company, 2/3 commanding officer, ran in the guidon with dog tags for every fallen Marine affixed to the top.

Tracy, who organized the run with McDonald and Kareus, then spoke to the Marines who participated in the run, as well as other Marines from the regiment. He spoke about the importance of the run and remembering fallen brothers.

“Those 92 Marines were Marines who once walked to McDonalds,” Tracy said. “They’re Marines who ate in the chow hall and slept in your barracks. They were your roommates, your friends, your brothers. I’m impressed by the support you’ve shown for this run. We had wounded warriors running despite injuries. We had Marines who had gotten out come back for this run. We had Marines running with tears in their eyes. I’m glad our fallen warriors can know they have this kind of support.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Major Matthew Tracy affixes the last four dog tags to the guidon at 8 a.m., Nov. 9 for the last shift in the 3rd Marine Regiment 24-hour Memorial Run, which began Nov. 8. The run was held in honor of the regiment’s fallen warriors from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Karmah sheik confides in 3/3 Marines’ ability

Pfc. Brian Jones
Combat Correspondent

KARMAH, Iraq — “Be optimistic and you will find the good things.”

This is the notion of a prominent sheik here, working with Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, to create a peaceful today and a thriving tomorrow for a city that’s weighted down by conflict.

In July, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, RCT-6, completed their tour and relinquished control over the battle space in and around the city where they had fought to dispose of the enemy seeded in the area.

“We’re falling in on the tail end of that so that we can bring the population to the next level and help get the economy moving again,” said Capt. Quintin D. Jones, commanding officer, Lima Company, 3/3. “We are transitioning away from the kinetic fight and trying to help the local governance.”

While his Marines continue counterinsurgency operations, Jones is trying to kick-start the city’s economy again, hoping to tie it all back into larger levels of government.

“On one end I’m fighting, and on the other end I’m [settling disputes] between tribal leaders,” said Jones, a Memphis, Tenn., native. “The other

part [is] trying to stimulate the economy. So, it’s a three-block war here and it’s very, very dynamic.”

Local government was restored, the city council was assembled, and Karmah has an experienced official as mayor. With these three building blocks in place, Karmah’s municipal government tied back into its largest neighbor, Fallujah. Fallujah in turn ties Karmah into Ramadi, the provincial capital, so that once Coalition Forces leave, the local government can remain stable.

“The economy will still be thriving because it is tied into the old system that was here,” Jones said.

“I think that we are essentially running a small corporation,” Jones said, “because we are doing a lot of things at the same time.”

Jones prompted meetings with many of the sheiks of the surrounding tribes, Sept. 22, visiting their homes, congregating with them, and sharing their food and hospitality. This brought many of the sheiks to the table

with other city officials to discuss what they had to offer the city.

“There is a serious cooperation that has taken place among the tribes and the Marines,” said Sheik Mishen of the Jumaila tribe, a dominant tribe in Karmah, through an interpreter. “What Capt. Jones did ... was as example of our own way of dealing with things.”

Iraq’s political landscape, especially in the areas outside major cities such as Fallujah and Ramadi, is dominated by tribes, their sheiks and internal loyalties. Bringing sheiks into the civil reconstruction picture is what spurred

the “Anbar Awakening,” said Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander, Multi-National Force - Iraq. In that way, company commanders like Jones are doing their part to undertake the comprehensive plan put in place by Petraeus.

Mishen agreed to Jones’ wishes and was willing to overcome animosity toward the sheiks of lesser stature to help improve the security situation in the city.

“I will set differences aside to do the right thing,” Mishen said. “No matter what happens, if anything advances the security of Karmah, I will cooperate.”

Mishen said he strongly opposes the violence insurgents have brought upon his tribe.

Insurgent violence has touched him personally many times throughout the war, losing many of his cousins in attacks.

Just weeks before, his daughter was killed in a mortar attack in the home in which Jones met him.

“So far security is very good,” Mishen said. “As far as

Karmah is concerned, the Marines are doing an excellent job. With the cooperation between our people here, things are actually working for the best.”

Mishen said he values the Marines as the glue holding things together and is hoping the Marines will stick around until all the bad guys are captured.

He also shared great concern for what he considers a failing judicial system.

“If things continue like this, things will probably backfire on the system,” Mishen said. “I am optimistic, but there are some parts of Karmah that need to be cleaned up.

“We are going to rebuild the place, rebuild the hope and solve the problems of the poverty,” Mishen said about plans for the city. “Once the area is 100 percent secure, or secure enough, a lot of kids want to return to school. Education is the key.”

Mishen said he feels they need Jones to keep things going as well as they are.

He equated the company commander’s importance to local reconstruction to the importance of President George W. Bush and high-level military leaders in national reconstruction.

“I know that Jones will be leaving, but I hope that in the short time that he is here things will change a lot more than in the past because of his presence,” Mishen said.



Pfc. Brian Jones

A group of sheiks, including Sheik Mishen, head of the Jumaila tribe, confer at a meeting in Karmah, Iraq, Sept. 22. Accompanying them is Capt. Quintin D. Jones, commanding officer, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6.

Base units make clean sweep during Pride Day

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Service members and civilians wiped out trash around Kaneohe Bay as they cleaned during the Nov. 29 Pride Day.

Each command had a section of Mokapu Pen-



Christine Cabalo

Corporal George Underhill, CH-53 helicopter airframe mechanic, Marine Heavy Squadron 362, combs through Fort Hase Beach Nov. 29 looking for loose trash. Pride Day workers removed wooden pallets, old steel and litter from the base during the annual base-wide cleanup.

“We’re taking away everything: any old broken furniture hiding in the bushes or abandoned car parts in parking lots.”

New areas were added in the 2007 cleanup, said Petty Officer 1st Class Melissa Eilders, aviation structural mechanic and Pride Day coordinator, Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 24.

Volunteers trimmed and collected litter around the Base Chapel and Post Office, said Eilders.

All collected biodegradable trash ended up in the Base Landfill.

Corporals Levi Evenson and Dan Plummer, machine gunners, Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, helped empty one of the last trash bundles into the landfill.

“We found a lot of wooden pallets behind the chow hall,” Evenson said. “There were other things in the back, like glass and fire extinguishers. Those things we’ll take to the Recycling Center for disposal.”

The deputy base inspector said abandoned items are found continually, and regular mass cleanups help cut down what’s leftover. Taitingfong said he’s seen strange items left behind during regular checks.

“Once by the gas station we found a dead octopus,” he said. “It was strange to see on the road. Even now, no one knows how it got there.”

The 2007 strategy for cleaning was to equally focus on all outdoor base areas to find abandoned items and loose trash, the deputy base inspector said.

“We’ve found things in ravines nobody would have known about if we didn’t have Pride Day,” he said. “I think the event is really a day for the units aboard to be observant and very meticulous about how the base looks.”

The deputy base inspector said one of his concerns is ensuring loose trash is collected. He said he’s noticed litter and bulky items continually accumulate at areas like the base’s beaches because of the wind or the sea pushing trash around. Eilders said she’s noticed a lot of improvement in areas once trash gets collected.

“I think the better you feel about where you work – the more pride you take in your work,” Eilders said. “Taking responsibility for the base I think makes everyone feel good.”

The semi-annual cleanup is a cooperative project between the Base Inspector’s Office and the Environmental Compliance and Protection Department.

Base volunteers have collected abandoned items and weeded out invasive mangrove roots for more than five years. Taitingfong said Pride Day isn’t just for base employees to volunteer to clean up. He said would love to see more civilian residents participate.

“I’m hoping people get inspired to have a sense of residency,” Taitingfong said. “Sometimes when I inspect homes, I see people just let things pile up because they’ll be leaving later on. Residents and workers can take pride in the base with a little effort. Having a place you can be proud of starts from the inside.”



Sgt. Cody Carlisle, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, is welcomed home from a seven-month deployment in Iraq by his wife, Missy. The Marines of the battery arrived back to Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Hangar 105.



Lance Cpl. Brandi M. Carter
A Marine assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay reunites with his daughter at Hangar 105.

PUCKER UP, DEAR

Loved ones welcomed Marines, Sailors returning to K-Bay throughout the year



Cpl. Mark Fayloga
A Marine hugs and kisses his children on his return from a seven-month deployment to Iraq.



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Families and friends of Marines and Sailors assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment waited in anticipation for their loved ones to arrive at Hangar 105, Oct. 19.

WELCOME BACK

A brief look back at who returned home when and from where

1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment
Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned home Oct. 18-20 after a seven-month Iraq deployment.

1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment
1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment returned from an Iraq deployment in October after a seven-month tour with Task Force Military Police, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Forward.

2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment
Marines assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned in April after a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

CSSG-3
Marines attached to Embedded Transition Team 5-1, Combat Service Support Group 3 returned in August after a 9-month deployment to Afghanistan.

HMH-362
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 returned after a seven-month deployment to al Asad, Iraq.

HMH-363
Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 returned home from Iraq in April after a 7 month deployment.

1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment
Marines assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned in September after a seven-month Iraq deployment.



Marines, Sailors, families say goodbye to 23 fallen heroes

Cpl. Luke Blom
Combat Correspondent

It was an emotional event as mothers, fathers, wives, friends and fellow Marines listened to the names of 22 Marines and one Sailor, who were killed while conducting combat operations in al Anbar province, Iraq, during a memorial ceremony at the base flight line here, April 19.

The 23 service members were part of the Island Warriors of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and were killed while conducting combat operations in the Haditha “Triad” – a tri-city metropolitan region on the banks of the Euphrates River in western Anbar, home to approximately 80,000 Iraqis.

“They have made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Lt. Col. James Donnellan, commanding officer, 2/3. “While they are no longer physically in the ranks of 2/3, their memory and legacy is now a permanent part of the Island Warriors.”

The families of each of the fallen Island Warriors were flown in from around the country to be part of the ceremony alongside the Marines their sons, brothers and husbands served with during their time in Iraq.

“It was really good to be able to talk to the Marines Daniel served with,” said Hannah Chaires, the sister of Lance Cpl. Daniel Chaires who was killed in action Oct. 25, 2006. “It made me feel closer to [Daniel] hearing all the stories about him I’d never heard before. It was very comforting.”

As the ceremony began, more than 500 Marines stood tightly in formation as the families were accompanied by friends and fellow Marines of the fallen to witness the memorial ceremony.

After opening remarks and a prayer, Sgt. Maj. Patrick Wilkinson, the senior enlisted Marine in 2nd Battalion, stood in front of the formation and announced the roll call for the fallen one last time.

As Wilkinson read off the names of each of the 23 fallen service members, a pair of boots was placed in front of a rifle placed bayonet first into a wooden



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Marines and family members mourn the loss of Lance Cpl. Mario Gonzales during 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment’s memorial ceremony here April 19 for 22 Marines and one Sailor who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

pedestal and adorned with a Kevlar helmet on the butt stock and dog tags draped over the pistol grip.

When Wilkinson had read off all the names, each one answered with silence, Donnellan came to the podium to address the Marines and families.

Throughout Donnellan’s speech, he referred to the Battle of Iwo Jima in an effort to put some perspective on 2nd

Battalion’s loss. He told the Marines and families how more than 25,000 Americans were killed or wounded in the process of taking the small Japanese held island.

“Where is this war’s Iwo Jima? Where’s this war’s tipping point?” asked Donnellan in reference to a climatic battle to mark the point in which a war turns in favor of the Coalition. He then

went on to explain to the families exactly how much the area in Iraq changed for the better and how their sons’ dedication and sacrifice affected the people of the Haditha Triad.

Upon 2nd Battalion’s arrival in the Triad in September 2006, there were a small handful of Iraqi Police, no local governance, high level of violence averaging 13 attacks on coalition forces per day, much of the market district closed due to fear of violence and a local population that was wary of Marine presence in the area.

Through seven months of hard work and the sacrifice of 23 young men, the Triad region made significant steps toward peace and rebuilding.

When 2nd Battalion’s tour in the Haditha Triad came to a close, the local Iraqi Police force grew in strength to more than 200 police officers, attacks on coalition forces dropped to one per day, a largely cooperative local population emerged, numerous reconstruction projects were started and a local government started to take shape.

“Your husbands and sons were ambassadors, police, advisors and overall Marines,” said Donnellan. “They have made a difference in the lives of thousands of Iraqi citizens and made America safer in the process. In the end your husbands and sons made the people respect them more than they feared them, and the enemy fear them more than they hated them.”

In closing, Donnellan relayed a message from the new mayor of Haditha to the families of the 23 men killed securing the triad. The day Donnellan left the Triad, the mayor pulled him aside with a handshake and a hug and asked him to extend a message of condolence

and immense gratitude to the families of the fallen.

“He told me, ‘there are no words in English or Arabic that I can tell you how grateful I am to your Marines for their sacrifices here. I want you to tell the families for me that the people of Haditha will never forget their sons, and we will never forget 2/3 because it was in your time here that Haditha was given hope again.’”

Before he left the podium, Donnellan conveyed to the families that even though their sons didn’t die in a glorious flag raising like Iwo Jima, their sacrifice was no less courageous or respected and that they died while conducting a “worthy mission.”

At the close of the ceremony, the Marines who served with and were friends with the fallen got a chance to talk with the families and extend their personal condolences.

“Jeremy [Lance Cpl. West, killed Nov. 25, 2006] was one of my good friends,” said Cpl. Walter Marinero, infantryman. “I was really happy to meet his parents and it was good to talk to them. I just told them what a great guy he was and gave them a big hug.”

This was the second memorial service for each of the 23 service members, the first of which was held days after each of their deaths in Iraq.

The combat memorials were strictly attended by service members the fallen served with.

“This memorial was harder than the ones in country just because it’s heart breaking to see the families hurting so much,” said Marinero. “The memorials in country were more for us (Marines) to say goodbye, but this was 100 percent for the families. My prayers go out to them.”

MALS-24 Wins Navy, Marine Corps-wide ‘Battle A’ Airspeed Award

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

The first Enterprise AIRSpeed Site of the Year 2007 ‘Battle A’ award was given to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Marine Aircraft Group 24, June 21.

The award was shared with the Fleet Readiness Center Mid-

Atlantic Site Norfolk, and was given in recognition for outstanding continuous process improvement.

“Receiving the award was a mixture of surprise and pride in the work that the unit has been doing,” said Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Hopkins, AIRSpeed chief, MALS-24.

AIRSpeed is a process improvement system for Naval

aviation. The “Battle A” award was given in recognition of efforts in process improvement, Hopkins said. The Marines and Sailors of MALS-24 have been working hard to make things better around the unit, helping save money, time and eliminate the amount of waste MALS-24 produces.

“The efforts the unit puts in helps give Marines and Sailors more time to do the things they do,” Hopkins said.

“This way work doesn’t cut into their personal time,” he added. “There are a lot of sites around the Navy and Marine Corps that are doing a lot, but we’ve been aggressively pursuing this for a few years. We’ve attacked this more as a culture thing instead of a process.”

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 was the first AIR-Speed site around the Navy and Marine Corps to set up an AIRSpeed Lab. “Our overall goal is to improve aviation,”

Hopkins said.

The AIRSpeed Lab is a separate building from the rest of the wing and has a classroom-like atmosphere allowing for learning about different improvements that can be done in the unit.

The unit has benefited from the five members of the AIR-

Speed crew, which is evident with the “Battle A” award hanging on the wall.

The award was presented to the entire squadron, indicative of the team effort.

“It was a squadron-wide initiative,” Hopkins said. “All 600 Sailors and Marines of MALS-24 earned it.”

“Most of the work is MALS work, we just steer them,” he added.

The squadron’s initiative has not only helped them win awards, but save money.

“It’s like they say, ‘stop spending tomorrow’s money on yesterday’s aircraft today,’” Hopkins said.



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

The Enterprise AIRSpeed Site of the Year 2007 award was presented to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 and Fleet Readiness Center Mid-Atlantic Site Norfolk at the Enterprise AIRSpeed Summit, June 2.



Lance Cpl. William D. Hiett, team leader, Headhunter Squad, Charlie Company, 1/3, plots a coordinate in his global positioning system June 15, during a census patrol.

1/3 ‘census squad’ uses patrols to weed out insurgent threat

Cpl. Rick Nelson
Combat Correspondent

(Editor’s Note: This story was first published in June, 2007. First Battalion, 3rd Marines returned from a successful deployment in October.)

HAQLANIYAH, Iraq — Marines assigned to 3rd Squad, 5th Platoon, made up of Marines assigned to various companies within 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 2, conducted a census patrol here to gather information on local residents. Due to the tempo of hostile attacks when 1/3 first arrived in Iraq, the squad traveled to Haqlaniyah to assist operations by conducting various patrols and missions. “The information we get from the families is used to pretty much set up a map key, so if we have to go to that house we al-

ready have the information regarding it,” said Pfc. Sean W. Lynch, squad leader, 3rd squad. “When we enter the house we usually try to determine the basics about the owner like their name, tribe, age and place of birth. We also ask how many people live in the house and write down their badge number, so we can run their information later on.” Once they record the information, it goes to the company’s intelligence representative, who files it for possible later use. “These type of patrols help us weed out the good guys from the potentially bad guys,” Lynch, an Orlando, Fla., native added. “For example, we went into a house the other day and the owner was a teacher, so we knew he was really no threat and was here to help the Iraqi children, but when we go into homes of new families, who just moved in from places with known insurgents, we keep a

closer eye on them.” Lance Cpl. William D. Hiett, a team leader, said the patrols are also good for passing information to the locals. “When it comes up, we let the people know of any new curfew laws or upcoming civil affairs projects,” Hiett added. “It also gives us a chance to hand out candy and supplies to the children in the area.” Lynch explained they try to get to as many houses as possible during the time allotted for patrols. “We average [several] houses every time we go out,” he added. “The patrols can be pretty dangerous because we’re in each house for long periods of time, which means if the enemy knows which house we’re in, they have time to maneuver and set up an attack on us.” Hiett recalled a grenade attack during a census patrol when he

first arrived here. “We were on a road known for receiving grenade attacks, which is called ‘grenade alley’ by the Marines, and I looked to my right to clear a fence. When I turned back forward, someone had lobbed a grenade about 10 feet in front of me,” explained the 21-year-old Hiett. “I didn’t even see the actual grenade. I just had enough time to look in front of me and see a huge explosion.” The grenade’s impact threw Hiett against a wall, but no harm was done to him or any of the Marines in his squad. “Now I know the city like the back of my hand. I know there’s always going to be threats, so we have to continue to stay on our toes,” said Hiett. Private First Class Jose A. Rodriguez, rifleman, explained how he was formerly assigned to Alpha Company and used to hear stories about how hostile of an environment Haqlaniyah was. “We would always hear how much contact Charlie Company was taking, so when I found out I was going to Haqlaniyah I was nervous, but a little excited at the same time,” Rodriguez said. “Once I got to Headhunter, Charlie Company took a few attacks, but shortly after it seemed to go down to hardly any hostile acts.” Rodriguez said he enjoys being assigned to 3rd Squad, 5th Platoon and keeps busy because his unit conducts both mounted and dismounted operations throughout the area of operations. “We’re constantly going on patrols and missions, so it can be pretty demanding,” said Rodriguez, a Spring, Texas, native. “I’m glad we’re keeping busy though. There may be days when it’s physically hard, but then you come back to the [forward operating base] and know you’ve accomplished the mission and a sense of pride sets in.” Hiett described his time in Haqlaniyah as a great experience. “Working with the people and breaking the language barrier is amazing,” Hiett said. “Being out here, I actually feel like I’m making a difference and actually helping the Iraqi people.”



Photos by Cpl. Rick Nelson

Private First Class Jose A. Rodriguez, rifleman, Headhunter Squad, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, holds security for fellow Marines in his squad so they can enter a home to speak with the inhabitants during a census patrol in Haqlaniyah, June 15.

HMH-463 wins Joe Foss Award, nominated for best in Marine Corps

Best in 1st MAW, nearly best in Marine Corps

Cpl. Chadwick deBree
Combat Correspondent

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 received the Joe Foss Award for “HMH of the Year” from the Marine Corps Aviation Association, May 19, in Okinawa, Japan, for being the best in 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Upon receiving the award, the Pegasus squadron was nominated for the Keith B. McCutcheon award, the “HMH of the Year” award Marine Corps wide, although HMH-463 later secured that honor. Pegasus earned the nomination for 1st MAW after completing a successful tour in al Asad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from late 2006 to early 2007. “The nomination really results from the morale being very high, which was a result from the great leadership from the [commanding officer] on down to the lance corporals policing their own,” said Capt. Brian Friestman, pilot training officer, HMH-463, Marine Aircraft Group 24. “The Marines in this squadron seemed to be happy to be doing what they were trained to do out there.” The squadron was the first CH-53D squadron to deploy to Iraq and flew more hours than any other squadron, Friestman said. The squadron transported approximately two-million pounds of cargo and 20,000

passengers during the deployment. “Anytime you go out and do your mission it feels great, but when people recognize you for what you did it makes it that much sweeter,” said Maj. David S. Rentz, the executive officer during HMH-463’s deployment. “We did a lot better than anyone expected we would do,” he added. “No one knew what to expect from the 53Ds from Hawaii who haven’t deployed for so long.” The unit was also invited to the MCAA 2007 Award Reunion Symposium in Reno, Nev., in mid-October. “I think we [had] a pretty good shot, but the only thing wrong with the nomination is the intangibles like morale, esprit de corps, and cohesion,” Friestman said. “These are the things that should have put us there and you can’t really put in a write-up,” he added. The MCAA is an organization consisting of former and retired Marines of the Marine Corps aviation community. When a Marine enters a field in aviation, they’re invited to become a member and receive a quarterly magazine called “The Yellow Sheet,” which contains news from Iraq and Marine Corps aviation history. For more information on MCAA, go to <http://www.flymcaa.org>.



2 Iraqi Police, 3 insurgents killed in raid in western al Anbar

Cpl. Luke Blom
Combat Correspondent

(Editor's Note: This story was first published in February, 2007. Second Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned from a successful deployment in al Anbar province in April, 2007. The unit returns to Iraq in February.)

ZARIAH, Iraq — In an Iraqi Police led raid on a small cluster of houses outside the village of Zariah, three insurgents were killed and five were detained, Jan. 23.

Two Iraqi Policemen were also killed in the fighting, marking the first of Haditha's IPs killed in the line of duty in more than six months according to Lt. Col. Muhada Mahzir, Haditha IP deputy commander.

A group of Marines from the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, accompanied the IPs on the operation.

The Marines were on hand primarily to supervise the raid and assess how well the IPs employed tactics.

The Marines from 2/3 are responsible for the security of the Haditha Triad region, a region in western al Anbar province that sits on the banks of the Euphrates River and consists of the Iraqi cities of Haditha, Haqlaniyah and Barwanah.

The village of Zariah sits on the banks of Lake Qadisayah, roughly 20 kilometers north of the triad and is home to less than 1,000 Iraqis. The village was suspected to be an insurgent safe haven where anti-Iraqi forces would retreat to after attacking Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces in the Triad.

"The IPs got [intelligence] that terrorists would move from Zariah down to the triad to conduct attacks on ISF and Coalition Forces and then move



Cpl. Luke Blom

back up to Zariah to hideout," Maj. Eric E. Glassie said.

The terrorists who use Zariah as a hideout are thought to be largely foreign fighters from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Afghanistan, according to Mahzir.

The raid was conceived, planned and executed almost solely by the

Haditha IP, demonstrating how far the young police force has come in recent months, according to Glassie, Police Training Team officer in charge and 38-year-old from Stafford, Va.

"They have come an awful long way in the last couple months, but there is still some progress they need to make," Glassie said.

Since September 2006, the number of Shurta, the Arabic word for Police, on the local IP force has ballooned from 24 to more than 200.

While most of the new Haditha IPs are from the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, more than 30 men from Haditha have volunteered for service in the past two weeks. These "home-grown" volunteers represent

a monumental achievement for this community that has been gripped by violence for years, according to Glassie.

The outcome of the raid had an immediate effect on the IPs, according to Mahzir. On one hand, they saw the raid as a setback because of the loss of two comrades, but it was also seen as a rallying point for the police force.

"Two of our brothers died in the raid, but that does not mean the operation was a failure," Mahzir said. "The terrorists we killed and detained were very bad people."

The long-term effect of the operation on the IPs will only be shown in time, according to Lt. Col. James Donnellan, commanding officer, 2/3.

"As this event recedes into their memory, they'll refer to it as a day they killed three very bad guys and captured a few more," Donnellan said. "In the long run, I think the sacrifice of their fellow Shurta will be put in perspective."

TAKE A HIKE

HQBN steps it off for Holiday Food Drive

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis
Combat Correspondent

Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, stepped off on a 4.5-mile hike here, Nov. 8, en route to the base chapel to help assist in the chapel's annual holiday food drive.

The hike also helped celebrate the Marine Corps 232nd birthday. Marines carried 20 pounds of non-perishable food items as well as gear. "I enjoyed the hike," said Lance Cpl. Todd Lawhon, ammunition

technician. "It ensures Marines are maintaining their physical fitness levels and combat readiness. We need to do these more often, and besides, this was for a good cause."

At the base chapel, Marines formed an assembly line and began passing down all food items for collection.

"Marines were motivated and knew what they were doing was for a reason," Lawhorn said. "I think everyone stayed together during the hump and pushed through any discomfort they had not only because of embarrassment, but because it's

not like we do these things all the time. Might as well finish it strong."

Sergeant Maj. Erik Shirreffs, battalion sergeant major, and Lt. Col. William Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, concluded the hike with a few words on safety and the new spouses tuition assistance program, allowing spouses up to \$3,000 a year for three years for education.

The hike helped maintain the combat readiness of the Marines and also brought the Marines together to donate food to people in need, as a battalion.

Lance Cpl. Achilles Tsantarliotis

Marines assigned to Headquarters Battalion hike along the Nuupia Ponds Trail during the first leg of their 4.5-mile hike, Nov. 8, to deliver goods for the Holiday Food Drive.